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LETTER DATED 19 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The recently intensified campaign of murder, ethnic cleansing and destruction of cultural and religious objects of non-Serbs, in this case Catholics in the Serbian-occupied areas has one more time in recent days been brutally exhibited in Banja Luka. At 3 a.m. on 18 May 1995, the Serbian occupation authorities of Banja Luka dynamited yet another Roman Catholic Church and burned the adjoining parochial residence. This dynamiting was preceded by the vicious torture of a vicar and two sisters and the looting of the victims' personal belongings.

This latest incident follows numerous other acts of murder, looting and destruction by the Serbian occupation authorities including those documented by previous letters to the Security Council (S/1995/356, S/1995/369, S/1995/393).

Yesterday, the so-called Minister for Religious Issues in Karadžić's self-proclaimed Republic of Srpska, in the daily news programme of TV Banja Luka, attempted to justify the murder of Priest Filip Lukenda and Sister Cecilia Grgić, which had taken place on 12 May 1995, about which I had informed you in my letter dated 16 May 1995 (S/1995/393).

Regrettably, the Security Council has not yet reacted to these letters that, individually and collectively, indicate an evident and intensified pattern of terror by Karadžić's authorities and police against the non-Serb populations, and the total cleansing of Croats and Bosniacs, which has manifested itself as part of a premeditated policy.

This pattern as yet remains unconfronted.

Such cruel and methodical destruction of centuries-old monuments of Roman Catholic and Islamic culture has been unprecedented in our regions and did not occur even during the Nazi occupation, from 1941 to 1945.

The current unscrupulous persistence of Karadžić's Serbs in pursuing ethnic cleansing in every region under their control is growing, concurrent with the apparent lack of even verbal condemnation of these acts or warnings of the consequences that those who have committed these crimes may face: resolute action to protect the non-Serb populations.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative